

ELIGIBLE CHILD

A child who meets the eligibility criteria for receiving guardianship assistance under the Guardianship Assistance Act [MCL 722.871 et seq.].

GUARDIAN

A person appointed by the court to act as a legal guardian for a child under MCL 712A.19a and 712A.19c.

**GUARDIANSHIP
ASSISTANCE
AGREEMENT**

A negotiated, binding agreement regarding financial support as described in MCL 722.875 for children who meet the qualifications for guardianship assistance as specified in the Guardianship Assistance Act and the department's policies and administrative rules.

LEGAL CUSTODIAN

An individual who is at least 18 years old in whose care a child remains or is placed after a court makes required findings under MCL 712A.13a (abuse and neglect). Legal custodians include unlicensed relatives and unrelated and unlicensed persons with whom a court has placed a child, and licensed foster parents.

RELATIVE

An individual who is at least 18 years of age and related to the child by blood, marriage, or adoption, as grandparent, great-grandparent, great-great-grandparent, aunt or uncle, great-aunt or great-uncle, great-great-aunt or great-great-uncle, sibling, stepsibling, nephew or niece, first cousin or first cousin once removed, or the spouse of any of the above, even after the marriage has ended by death or divorce. The parent of a man who the court has found probable cause to believe is the putative father if there is no man with legally established rights to the child may be considered a relative but this is not to be considered as a finding of paternity and does not confer legal standing on the putative father.

SIBLING

Sister or brother, related to the child by blood (same birth mother and/or father) or adoption regardless of whether the siblings ever lived in the same household.

TITLE IV-E

The federal assistance provided through the United States Department of Health and Human Services to reimburse states for foster care, adoption assistance payments and guardianship assistance payments.